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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 7, lines 9-22, as follows:

The network operations center 12 determines the parameters necessary to properly configure the unconfigured appliance 11a-c in accordance with applicable security and administration policies. The configuration parameters are sent to the requesting configuration client 16. Upon receiving the set of configuration parameters for each new appliance 11a-c, the configuration client 16 generates a configuration packet, which is customized for and sent to each unconfigured appliance 11a-c. Upon the successful installation of each configuration packet by the appliances 11a-c, the configuration client 16 sends a "kick-start" packet to initiate a secure remote management session on each appliance 11a-c, such as described in commonly-assigned related U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/056,702[\_\_\_\_\_], entitled "System And Method For Providing A Framework For Network Appliance Management In A Distributed Computing Environment," filed January 25, 2002[, pending], the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.